

the privilege to know him, and to work alongside him, was influenced by his greatness. He will be sorely missed.

TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE
DAY IN THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of the anniversary of Mexico's Independence Day by the residents of Indianapolis.

There are over thirteen million people of Mexican origin or descent currently living in the United States. Hoosiers of Mexican descent have made vital economic, social, and cultural contributions to the City of Indianapolis. On September 15, 1999, St. Patrick's Church of Indianapolis will host a community celebration in honor of Mexico's independence.

In 1810, 189 years ago, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Franciscan Priest, voiced "El Grito de Dolores," imploring the Mexican people to fight for their freedom and liberty, revolutionizing the course of Mexican history. Upon ringing the church bells to announce to the world that a new movement for freedom had begun, the venerable and revered Hidalgo proclaimed, "Long live our Lady of Guadalupe, Death to the Gachupines! Viva La Independencia."

Today, Hoosiers of Mexican descent possess a love for freedom and liberty that honors their heroic forbears who undertook the courageous battle for Mexican independence. As the struggle for freedom began at the footsteps of the church, it is fitting that another church and another priest, Father Thomas Fox, will help to lead the Indianapolis community celebration of this anniversary.

As we prepare to cross the threshold to the 21st Century, the good work of the entire St. Patrick's family ensures that Indianapolis makes welcome all whose hopes and dreams have led them to our community. It is with much joy that I join the St. Patrick's community in exclaiming "Viva Mexico!"

MOUNT LEBANON BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in November 1899, the Reverend Theodore Williams, a recent graduate of the School of Theology at Howard University was inspired by God to establish a mission which was named High Street Baptist Church. The mission worshiped in an old jail, a former detention center for runaway slaves, on High Street, now Wisconsin Avenue, NW, in Georgetown. Later, the church held worship services at the Seventh Street Baptist Church—which is now named Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 1901, a recognition council was called, and High Street Baptist,

which now had thirty-four members, was recognized as a regular Baptist Church. The congregation continued to grow, and in November 1904 purchased and relocated to a new site at 814 25th NW and was renamed Mount Lebanon Baptist Church. An all-day service was held on Sunday, November 19, 1908, in thanksgiving for the completion of the work of renovating this property. Six years later (1914), the congregation demolished that building and constructed a new building, to the glory of God, on the same site. The mortgage for the new building was burned in 1919. In April 1923, after 24 years of inspired and zealous leadership and service as pastor, Reverend Williams was called to his reward. He was succeeded by the Reverend John Ford, who served as pastor from 1924 until 1932 when he left to accept a new charge.

In November 1932, the Reverend Edgar Newton was installed as pastor. His motto was "Follow me as I follow Christ." Much was accomplished during his leadership of almost thirty-nine years. New clubs (ministries) and a building fund were established, significant growth in membership was accomplished, two properties adjacent to the church were purchased, services to members and the community were expanded, and the site of the present church was purchased. In addition, three mortgages were burned—two at the 25th Street site and one at the present site, 1219 New Jersey Avenue, NW, to which the congregation relocated on January 27, 1963. Reverend Newton retired in June 1971; and on June 18, 1974, he was called from service to reward.

The Reverend Vernon C. Brown, a son of the church, succeeded Reverend Newton to the pastorate on November 12, 1972, and served faithfully until his retirement on December 31, 1991. Under his leadership, programs of services to members and the community were expanded, including services to senior citizens and a "feed the hungry" program providing balanced hot meals at least once per week. His motto was "The family that prays together stays together."

From the time of Reverend Brown's retirement until November 1992, pastoral duties were shared by three sons of the church, the Reverend Norman King, the Reverend Benjamin C. Sands, and the Reverend William O. Wilson.

In November 1992, the Reverend H. Lionel Edmonds became the fifth pastor of the church. Pursuant to his vision of "building the beloved community", great strides have been made including nearly quadrupling the membership and the establishment of new ministries to meet the spiritual, physical, and intellectual needs of members and the community. These include a Cedars Discipleship Institute (Christian education); Sons of Simeon (men's ministry); Daughters of Miriam dance classes; boys' basketball and football teams; classes to develop job skills in computers, lock smithing and electricity; health and beauty workshops; aerobics classes; and a soon-to-be-opened child development center. All services are open to the community as well as to members of the church.

Mount Lebanon's community service extends beyond its immediate environs. Through very active involvement in the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), an interdenominational coalition of churches from all eight of the city's wards, it also participates in other city-

wide programs to provide low-cost housing for families and after school care for children, reduce crime, provide education/job skills to citizens, and to assure a living wage for all persons employed in the city.

Mr. Speaker, through worship and community service, Mount Lebanon carries out its slogan, "We serve a great God; we are a great people; and we are about a great work."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this body join me in congratulating the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, and celebrating the spiritual understanding that has guided their path for 100 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during a rollcall vote: No. 409, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1883, the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 1999. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays, I was not present for rollcall votes 405, 406 and 407 on September 13, 1999. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 405, "aye" on rollcall vote 406 and "aye" on rollcall vote 407.

FROM THE INLAND EMPIRE TO
THE WORLD: 75 YEARS OF THE
BEST ORANGES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Redlands Foothill Groves citrus cooperative, which for the past 75 years has been packing the very best navel oranges in downtown Redlands and sending them throughout the world.

Chroniclers of California history have suggested that the lush orange groves of the Inland Empire were as important to the growth of the Golden State as the gold rush itself. From the time that the first navel oranges were successfully grown in towns like Redlands, Loma Linda, Highland and East Highland, California became known as the producer of the very best fruit.

The groves that once covered 49,000 acres of San Bernardino County have dwindled to just over 5,000, but the fruit produced by the members of the Redlands Foothill Groves is still considered some of the best in the world. Much of the crop that is packed here is shipped overseas, where it commands a premium price as a delicacy. The packinghouse